



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

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# Memorandum

Subject: Early Coordination

Date: **AUG 19 1983**

From: Director, Office of Environmental Policy  
Washington, D.C.

Reply to  
Attn. of: HEV-11

To: Regional Federal Highway Administrators,  
Regions 1-10

## Purpose

This memorandum is intended to provide guidance information on recent problems and direction to improve the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) early coordination with other agencies (especially the U.S. Coast Guard).

## Background

Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with both the U.S. Coast Guard and the Corps of Engineers call for coordination during the early stages of project development. Section 111 of 23 CFR 771 also calls for early coordination with public agencies in general. For projects which will need a bridge permit or a Section 404 permit, 23 CFR 771.111(d) requires that the U.S. Coast Guard or the Corps of Engineers (respectively) be requested to be a cooperating agency.

The Washington Headquarters (including Administrator Barnhart) continues to be informed by other agencies of problems that have been caused because of a failure to make the cooperating agency request and to engage in early coordination. This has led to conflict, complaints, and delays in advancing important projects. We have also been informed on the lack of responsiveness in some instances. At a recent meeting between Executive Director R.D. Morgan and Captain Seabrook (Chief of the Coast Guard's Bridge Administration Division), it was mutually agreed that renewed effort should be exercised to implement the Coast Guard/FHWA MOU.

## Action

1. In order to eliminate the types of problems described above, please discuss with your Division Offices the need for early and meaningful coordination, the need to request other agencies to be cooperating agencies, and the need to be responsive when problems surface. The Divisions should be asked to take the necessary steps to assure that the States faithfully adhere to these requirements.

2. Several States have been identified by the Coast Guard as a source of coordination problems. We will further discuss these situations with you on an individual basis in the near future to plan remedial measures.
3. In addition to the program areas listed in my May 20 memorandum on program reviews, please be advised that the topic of early coordination will be added to the list of review topics for the Environmental Programs Division program reviews in Fiscal Year 1984.
4. Please be advised that Executive Director R.D. Morgan has informed the Coast Guard that its District Offices should contact FHWA's Deputy Regional Administrators in any instance of unresponsiveness on matters of early coordination.



Ali F. Sevin